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LETTER DATED 8 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request you to circulate the two letters that were addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, H.E. Mr. Anastase Gasana.

The first one is dated 13 August 1995, and the other 24 November 1995, on the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and equipment to be given to the Rwandan Government. I should be grateful if these two letters could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manzi BAKURAMUTSA
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Letter dated 13 August 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Rwanda once again takes this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to the principles and ideals of the United Nations.

On 6 September 1995, the Vice-President and Minister of Defence, Major General Paul Kagame, appointed an interministerial commission to appraise the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) and to ensure a smooth transition, should the mandate of UNAMIR end.

Through this interministerial commission, the Government of Rwanda has requested that the United Nations, if and when the mandate of UNAMIR ends, should assist the Government with equipment and material that could enhance its reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts as well as assist in the refugee repatriation and resettlement process.

Rwanda's post-genocide situation dictates international cooperation, patience as well as flexibility in order to put this country back on its feet. We continue to count on the United Nations to play a complementary role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of this nation.

You are aware that international assistance to Rwanda has just been trickling in, and this has certainly slowed reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts. UNAMIR equipment and material, particularly the United Nations hospital, communication equipment, computers, office equipment, the United Nations radio, heavy and light trucks, utility vehicles, prefabricated units, generators, tanks, pumps, water purification equipment etc., though a drop in the ocean, would be a significant contribution to the efforts of the Government of Rwanda by the United Nations.

In consideration of Rwanda's unique situation, we trust that the United Nations will exercise flexibility and permit the transfer of UNAMIR equipment and material to the Rwandan Government.

(Signed) Anastase GASANA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation

Annex II

Letter dated 24 November 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda addressed to the Secretary-General

The Government of Rwanda takes this opportunity to renew its commitment to the principles and ideals of the United Nations.

The Government of Rwanda has carefully reviewed UNAMIR's mandate in the light of our current priorities, which are security, rehabilitation of survivors of genocide, repatriation of refugees and reconstruction of the country.

1. The security of Rwanda is the responsibility of the Government of Rwanda and UNAMIR plays no role in it.

2. For the survivors of the genocide, in addition to psychological rehabilitation, there is need for practical assistance in constructing houses and providing for other matters of need.

3. In the repatriation of refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Rwandan Government are working together to facilitate the process, but there will be need for the international community to mobilize resources in order to resolve the refugee problem quickly.

4. The 1994 genocide has not only deprived Rwanda of trained manpower, but has also destroyed the country's infrastructure and economy, among others. The country needs funds, technology, engineers, doctors, agricultural experts, etc. who can offer practical help in rebuilding our nation.

Since UNAMIR is a peace-keeping mission, the Government has come to the conclusion that it does not respond to our priority needs. The Government of Rwanda therefore wishes to inform you, and through you, the members of the Security Council, that the mandate of UNAMIR will terminate on 8 December 1995, in accordance with Security Council resolution 997 (1995) of 9 June 1995.

The Government of Rwanda wishes to express its appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions UNAMIR personnel have made during their tenure in Rwanda.

(Signed) Anastase GASANA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation